



**Trails Commission Meeting  
MINUTES — May 31, 2006  
Redmond City Hall**

**TRAILS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Commissioners Eades, McDonald, and Scott.

**ABSENT AND EXCUSED:** Chairpersons, Smith and Barnfather; Commissioner Bechmann and Youth Advocate Pfaff.

**CITY STAFF:** Tim Cox, Park Planning Manager; Linda Gorremans, Park Planner; and Sharon Sato, Recording Secretary.

**AUDIENCE:** Bill Simmons, Redmond resident and potential new Trails Commission member Cindy Jayne.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Due to lack of quorum, the “unofficial” Trails Commission meeting was called to order by Commissioner Eades at 7:09 p.m. in the City Hall Building, Council Conference Room.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Due to lack of official quorum, approval of the April 26, 2006 minutes will be delayed until the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**III. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE/HANDOUTS**

- A. PBAC May minutes – The Pedestrian Bicycle Advisory Committee minutes from their May 8 meeting were given to the Commission for their information and review.

Eades noted that Joel Pfundt, Public Works Transportation Planner, has been newly assigned as City staff to the Committee. Pfundt who also staffs the Committee’s monthly meetings, will be the liaison between the PBAC and Parks staff.

Jayne inquired what the link between the PBAC Committee and the Trails Commission was. Staff responded that issues often affect trails, trail usage and trail connections, which are often issues for both the Commission and Committee. Gorremans is currently working with Public Works staff, in an attempt, to acquire a T-21 grant, written in the transportation aspect, in the amount of \$700,000 to improve the trail crossing landings at Redmond-Woodinville Road, and possibly another uphill crossing to further comply with ADA accessible standards and improve safety.

- B. Williams Pipeline Construction in Watershed Preserve – Beginning May 22, 2006, for approximately 60 days, construction to replace existing underground natural gas lines, in place since 1956, with a new 36" line will require some trail closures. Signs have been placed in the Watershed to direct citizens as to which trails are affected. Construction is scheduled for completion sometime in September 2006. Notification has been made in several eastside newspapers.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

A. Overlake Design Workshop/Charente Recap - Cox

A design workshop was held on May 5 & 6, 2006 at the Silver Cloud Motel in the Overlake area, in Redmond. The two-day design workshop was designed to discuss and focus on the future of the Overlake Urban Center. Goals, identity issues, character, image, parks, green space, land use, development, transportation. Development concepts, alternatives, identify top priorities, action plan and what steps to proceed with were discussed. There was a general consensus that non-motorized transportation should play a significant role as the commercial area redevelops into a greater mix of residential and commercial uses (et. al. Group Health moving out by 2008).

Eades inquired if there had been discussion on the opportunity of a trail corridor in that area. Cox responded that "green streets" (boulevard in nature, have a setback adjacent to outer edge, with meandering sidewalks within a landscape setting) were a topic of discussion. Eades suggested a trail corridor from 520, across the new bridge at 41<sup>st</sup> to the existing Group Health building and across to continue behind Sears.

The Parks Director, Cox, Park Board members, Mayor Ives, City Council members and other City staff attended the two-day workshop.

The Planning Dept. will follow-up with their Comprehensive Plan Amendment. As this subject progresses, staff will work with Planning as this relates to trails and update the Commission.

B. Evans Creek Ribbon Cutting – June 15, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.

Gorremans reported that due to extenuating circumstances the plans for a National Trails day event (June 3) had been canceled. In lieu of that staff planned to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new paved section of the Evans Creek Trail as an alternative to the previously planned National Trails Day event.

Participants and visitors should meet at the south end of Union Hill Road, where parking will be available. The Mayor, Council members, legislators and staff have been invited to the event.

RCTV will be contacted to tape the event and other media will also be informed.

Commissioners agreed and staff will proceed with the arrangements.

MacDonald suggested that, in the future, coordinating and partnershiping between surrounding cities and hiking organizations might generate more enthusiasm for National Trails Day events.

C. Levy Lid/Park Bond

Cox reported that the Levy Lid did not pass on May 16<sup>th</sup>. He reported the Park Board would be discussing the subject at their June 1 meeting to discuss and further assess possibilities.

Cox will keep the Commission informed. He invited the Commission to comment.

D. Field Trip

Commissioners were in favor of a field trip in lieu of their next regularly scheduled Commission meeting in June. Cox suggested, for the benefit of those Commissioners not in attendance, staff will e-mail Commissioners on suggested dates and times. A list of site visits will also be e-mailed to members. Commissioners suggested projects that are on the top ten connector list and/or projects to be discussed within the next six months.

E. Trail Connection Assignments

Cox reported that some Commission assignments had been finalized and turned into staff. Staff will compile all assignments into one report.

Cox reported that the Southeast Redmond Trail, part of Lakeside subdivision, "black top" section has been built, which connects to the Red Brick Road, which then connects to Arthur Johnson Park on the north. Cox noted, as an advantage, as the neighborhood has become developed it has created three specific linkages to the "black top" trail (part of the Evans Creek arm). He noted the disadvantage is that this trail is not heavily used, north Union Hill Road or south to Redmond-Fall City Road no signalization is available.

MacDonald inquired what the timeline would be on the remainder of the Evans Creek Trail. Cox responded that it is contingent upon development north of the Cadman Sand and Gravel site and abatement of the King County Maintenance site.

Gorremans reported that King County is in the process discussing Novelty Hill improvements and routing of traffic down to Perrigo Community Park to Union Hill Road. Once this plan is in the process, Parks staff will begin plans to further/future linkages in this area.

Cox noted that the section of Bear & Evans Creek Trail being dedicated on June 15 is phase one of the construction that will occur as part of the Bear and Evans Creek Trail.

Redmond 74 site map – handout, new soft surface trail connecting with Puget Power Trail, one of 2-3 different connections the development will have to the PSE Trail.

F. Project Reports

- a. Trail at Bear Creek Park (aka Safeway Trail) – under construction, some tree removal, completion in approximately three months, north end connections to Union Hill Road, south end to Redmond Way.

- b. Bear Creek Trail at Avondale – portion between Union Hill Road and the intersection of Avondale Road (Championship Motors), problem of business patrons parking cars along road, 150' buffer will be fenced off to alleviate problems enforcing car parking on business site.
- c. 520 Extension to Sammamish River Trail – Leary Way, West Lake Sammamish Parkway and 520 entrance, signage issue, ISTE grant in process, small gravel section to be addressed.
- d. Northstar Trail Survey – crew surveyed on 116<sup>th</sup>, re-flagged area, trail is on boundary line of western residential lot – steep slope, staff researching feasibility of building a soft surface trail on site – 10 ft. wide easement. Lozier Builders has been contacted to possibly get additional right-of-way - some potential interest has been shown by Lozier, further negotiations will continue, staff will report back to the Commission.
- e. Nicholls Trail – west side of Farrell McWhirter Park, owned by Nicholls Family, old railroad corridor, re-negotiated one year lease to use trail corridor, Nicholls' expressed interest in selling to the City – conditioned upon access from Nicholls Farm to Juel Park (east side of Juel wetlands, not feasible), discussing north access to FM Park as a alternative, widen southern shoulder of 116<sup>th</sup> a possibility going westerly of property hooking into equestrian trail at 116<sup>th</sup> at Juel Park.
- f. Missing Link – City has easement agreement (expires 2012) with Puget Sound Energy through Farrell McWhirter Park, FM to Watershed King County is negotiating trail, negotiations are still in progress, KC acquired final parcel, legal language in agreement is holding up final completion of contiguous corridor.
- g. Other – Bill Simmons, Redmond resident, spoke of his concern in regards to the steep trail connector near the Willows neighborhood. Currently, although there is a soft surface connector/paper street on the north side of Willows Creek Park, he and his family cannot access trails below, in a safe manner, due the trail below due and the steep grade of the connector.

McDonald, along with Smith, had surveyed the trail connector gave Simmons some alternatives to the steep slope connector access. Simmons inquired if any improvements in the near future would be planned. Commissioners responded that the next step would be study to show what is feasible and not feasible and what options could be offered. Eades, a member of the Pedestrian Bicycle Committee (PBC), also noted that this trail connector was a high on the PBC's list of priorities.

Gorremans suggested Simmons write a letter to the Commission and staff explaining the neighborhood situation and asking for a resolution to the problem. Simmons will keep in touch with the Commission and staff.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Sharon Sato

<p><b>Audiotapes of regular Trails Commission meetings are available at the Parks and Recreation Office at (425) 556-2311.</b></p>
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**THE NEXT REDMOND TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING:**  
**Wednesday, June 28, 2006**  
**City Hall - City Council Conference Room**  
**7:00 p.m.**